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Crow pads Stock lead

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Inside SOCAL

There's a rule in the NASCAR Pure Stock division at Irwindale Speedway that the winner of the previous race has to start last in the next race.

Simi Valley's Rick Crow has had to start last four times this year. He's won three times when that has happened.

Crow started Saturday night's Pure Stock race last again after winning the previous race July 1. Not that it mattered. He won again and has a commanding lead in the Pure Stock points race.

An opening-lap crash between Curtis Drye and Patrick Miller almost took out Crow, but he was able to squeak past the damaged cars in turn 2 and resume the race.

Harry Michaelian led the first 13 laps of the race before Crow made an outside pass at the starting line for the lead on lap 14.

Michaelian took back the lead on the next lap. The two swapped spots for a couple of laps before Crow took the lead for good on lap 17 of the 25-lap race.

It was the seventh win of the season and the fourth in a row for Crow. Mark Whitson was second and Michaelian was third.

Series points leader Jeff Williams of Newbury Park led the first 15 laps of the West Coast Pro Trucks race, but pole-sitter Rick Wall won his first race of the year.

It was Wall's first start in four races. His previous best finish of the year was second.

Williams finished second and maintained his lead in the West Coast Pro Trucks standings despite going winless this year.

The NASCAR Elite Division, Southwest Series, highlights a night of racing at Irwindale Speedway on Saturday.

Rip Michels of Mission Hills is leading the Southwest Series standings. M.K. Kanke of Frazier Park is fourth in points and has won the past two Southwest Series races.

Kanke also won the Southwest Series race at Irwindale Speedway last year.

The NASCAR Late Models, Super Stocks and Mini Stocks are also scheduled to race Saturday night at Irwindale Speedway.

Gates open at 4 p.m. Races start at 7.